

*HAK, Schwartz-LL*

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ISRAELI WAR (TOPS 126)

TEL AVIV ~~AREA~~ A TOP INTELLIGENCE GENERAL SAID TODAY ISRAELI FORCES HAVE ABANDONED MOST OF THEIR ORIGINAL DEFENSE LINE ALONG THE SUEZ CANAL AND HAVE DRAWN UP A NEW LINE TWO TO THREE MILES FROM THE WATERWAY'S EAST BANK.

"IT IS NOT GOING TO BE A SHORT WAR," SAID MAJ. GEN. AHARON YARIF. "THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL CAN EXPECT NO EASY AND ELEGANT VICTORIES."

YARIF SAID "WE HAVE EVACUATED MOST OF THE BAR-LEV LINE." THIS IS THE LINE ESTABLISHED BY THE ISRAELIS AS A DEFENSE LINE AGAINST EGYPT ALONG THE 103-MILE CANAL AFTER THE 1967 MIDDLE EAST WAR.

HE ADDED THAT IN THE GOLAN HEIGHTS "IT IS STILL TOO EARLY TO SAY THAT WE HAVE BROKEN THE SYRIAN ARMY."

HE TOLD A NEWS CONFERENCE THAT ISRAEL WAS GREATLY OUTNUMBERED IN TANKS AND TROOPS BUT HAD MANAGED "THANKS TO THE HEROISM OF OUR SOLDIERS," TO BUILD A FIRM BASE ON THE SUEZ CANAL, AND TO "BRING STABILITY TO THE GOLAN HEIGHTS LINE."

"I NEVER UNDERESTIMATED THE STRENGTH OF OUR ENEMY," HE DECLARED, "BUT I NEVER DOUBTED OUR STRENGTH."

YARIF SAID EGYPTIAN AND SYRIAN INVASION FORCES WERE RECEIVING ADVISORY SUPERVISION AND MAINTENANCE FROM "FOREIGN ELEMENTS."

HE DID NOT IDENTIFY THE FOREIGN ELEMENTS BUT HE WAS EVIDENTLY REFERRING TO SOVIET EXPERTS IN EGYPT AND SYRIA.

THE TEL AVIV MILITARY COMMAND SAID EARLIER ISRAELI TROOPS FOUGHT TO REPEL A SYRIAN COUNTERATTACK IN THE GOLAN HEIGHTS WHILE TANK AND INFANTRY BATTLES RAGED ON THE EAST BANK OF THE SUEZ CANAL.

~~WES20P00 OCT 9~~

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